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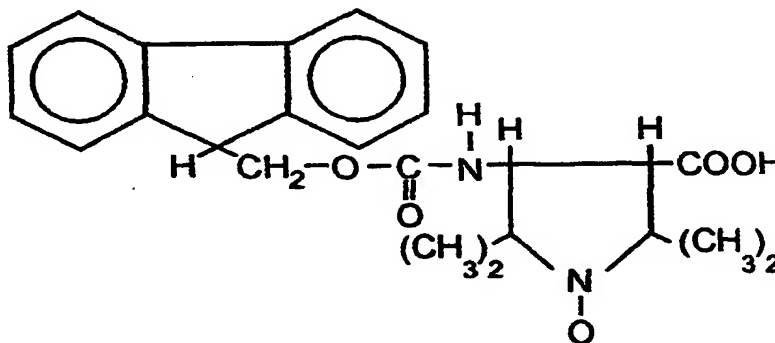
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(54) Title: SYNTHESIS OF A NOVEL PARAMAGNETIC AMINO ACID DERIVATIVE (EPM-5) FOR LABELLING CHEMI-  
CAL AND BIOLOGICAL MACROMOLECULES



Structure of Fmoc-Poac.

(57) Abstract: The present invention refers to the synthesis and application of 2,2,5,5-tetramethylpyrrolidine-N-oxyl-(9-fluorenyl-methyloxycarbonyl)-3-amine-4-carboxylic acid, a novel paramagnetic (spin label) amino acid derivative denominated as Fmoc-POAC whose structure is seen in Figure 1. Fmoc-POAC can be coupled to peptide sequences and other systems. It can be inserted anywhere in a peptide segment, even at an internal position, after removal of its temporary amine protecting group, Fmoc. Owing to its pyrrolidine structure, this molecule may induce differentiated conformations if compared with the normal alpha-amino acids, thus becoming a valuable probe for structural-biological activity of certain peptides. The POAC-angiotensin II analogue was synthesized as a model according to the use of the chemical derivative.



*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

**SYNTHESIS OF A NOVEL PARAMAGNETIC AMINO ACID DERIVATIVE (EPM-5) FOR LABELLING CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL MACROMOLECULES**

5 This invention refers to the chemical synthesis of a new paramagnetic  $\beta$ -amino acid derivative containing the stable nitroxide radical moiety inserted in its pyrrolidine structure and the 9-fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl group (Fmoc) was chosen as its amine function protecting group. This paramagnetic compound is therefore a new type of spin probe (or spin label) and it can be  
10 used as alternative report molecule for labeling peptide sequences, other macromolecules and systems where the electron paramagnetic resonance spectroscopy (EPR) can be applied. The use of this compound can be extended also for other spectroscopic methods such as fluorescence and nuclear magnetic resonance since its paramagnetism may affect the spectra  
15 of this methodologies. Due to the presence of both carboxyl and amine groups in its structure, the use of this organic compound may be extended for labeling a great variety of other molecules or systems containing reactive function for these two groups.

The intermediate for the synthesis of the amino acid derivative of the present  
20 patent contains the structure 2,2,5,5-tetramethylpyrrolidine-1-oxil-3-amine-4-carboxylic acid henceforth denominated as Poac, synthesized more than two decades ago (v.g. Tetrahedron 491-499 [1965] and Bull. France, 3, 815-817 [1967]). Thus, the Poac derivative containing the Fmoc protecting group (2,2,5,5-tetramethylpyrrolidine-1-oxil-3-(9-fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl)-amine-  
25 4-carboxylic acid) is the novel spin probe derivative of the present patent of invention. This new compound allows the POAC insertion as an usual amino acid at any position of the p ptide sequence and its denomination will be



**Fmoc-Poac** or **EPM-5** in this descriptive report. The chemical structure of this paramagnetic molecule is represented in **Figure 1**.

The electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) [*in Biological Magnetic Resonance*, Berliner, L. J. and Reuben, J., eds, Plenum Publishing, New York, (1989)], is a modern and very useful spectroscopic method because it allows studies of any paramagnetically labeled macromolecules or biological systems regarding their conformation, mobilities, inter - or intra-molecular interactions, structuring state, etc. The wide spectrum of EPR application is already detailed in the literature (v.g. *Free Nitroxyl Radical*, Rozantsev, E.G., Ulrich, H., ed., Plenum Press, London, 1970), where a great variety of spin labels, i.e., chemical compounds which are paramagnetic due to the presence of an unpaired electron in its structure, is listed. They are therefore a class of free radical but must be necessarily stable towards normal temperature and physiological pH and also allow several chemical reactions or experiments without affecting its free radical moiety.

Amongst the most commonly used spin labels one can detach the nitroxide group-containing molecules and where the unpaired electron locates. The most significant progress in the RPE field for labeling of relevant biological structures such as peptides and proteins was achieved with this class of spin probes. Almost two decades ago appeared the first RPE application in the solid phase peptide synthesis methodology [(*The Peptides: Analysis, Synthesis and Biology*, vol. 2, Academic Press, New York, (1980)). This approach was introduced by our group using instead, an other nitroxide-containing spin label denominated at that time as **Toac** (2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine-1-oxyl-4-amine-4-carboxylic acid protected at it amine function with the acid labile tert-butoxycarbonyl (Boc) group [(v.g. *Braz. J. M d. Biol. Res.* 14, 173, (1981) and *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, 742, 63,

(1983)]. Thus the Boc-Toac spin probe was the first in the literature used to label a peptide sequence as an amino acid. However, due to chemical particularities of the peptide synthesis methodology, it was only possible to couple the Toac group at the peptide N-terminal position. To overcome this  
5 shortcoming, an alternative strategy was published by us which finally allowed the insertion of the spin label internally to the peptide sequence [v.g. J. Am Chem. Soc. 115, 11042 (1993)].

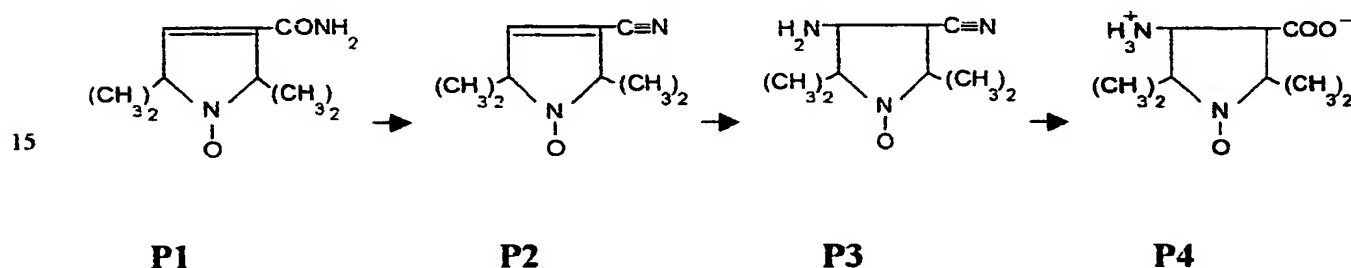
An impressive increase in the application of RPE for peptide chemistry field was further observed with reports investigating peptide conformational properties [v.g.  
10 J. Am. Chem. Soc. 117, 10555 (1995); FEBS Lett. 375, 239 (1995); Biopolymers 42, 821 (1997)] or of peptidil-resin solvation (Tetrahedron Lett. 375, 239 [1995]; Biopolymers 42, 821 [1997]). As an amino acid, TOAC was introduced in different positions of some biologically active peptides such as angiotensin II and bradykinin but a partial or integral loss of their biological potencies were observed  
15 due to the introduction of a non natural compound in their structures. [Peptides 1996, R. Ramage and R. Epton, eds, Mayflower Scientific Co. p. 673, (1998)].

However, we recently described the synthesis of a peptide hormone labeled with Toac and where its biological potency was entirely preserved. [v.g FEBS Lett. 446, 45 (1999)]. This result was obtained with the tridecapeptide  $\alpha$ -melanocyte stimulating hormone analogue and owing to its potentialities in a  
20 great number of chemical-biological assays (this analogue is paramagnetic, naturally fluorescent and fully active), was submitted for the patent process (PI 9900595, February 24, 1999 :  Synthesis of the first paramagnetic and active  $\alpha$ -melanocyte stimulating hormone analogue containing free radical  
25 amino acid ).

In spite of these results, one still remaining shortcoming to the use of Toac in peptide chemistry refers to the severe difficulty in coupling the subsequent amino acid residue of the peptide sequence during the synthesis. It seems to

be due to the low nucleophilicity of Toac amine group whose pKa of 8 (when in free state) decreases to about 5.5 when bound to the N-terminal portion of a peptide chain [v.g Braz J. Med. Biol. Res. 14, 173 (1981) and Biochim. Biophys. Acta. 742, 63 (1983)]. Several recouplings and the increase on the temperature of the coupling reaction are usually necessary to assure complete incorporation of the subsequent amino acid of the desired peptide sequence [J. Am. Chem. Soc. 115, 11042 (1993)].

Aiming to overcome this limitation inherent to the Toac probe and searching for an alternative spin label which may induce a differentiated conformational constraints in peptide structures, we decided to synthesize the **FMOC-POAC** according to partially described synthetic route shown below [Tetrahedron, 491-499 (1965); Bull. Soc..Chim. France, 3, 815 (1967)] :



#### Step # 1 - Synthesis of 2,2,5,5-tetramethylpyrrolidine-1-oxyl-3-cyano (P2)

This product was synthesized by treating the compound P1 (from Sigma Co) with tosil-chloride in dry pyridine. To 28.7 g ( $1.5 \times 10^{-1}$  mol) of tosil-chloride, 15.3 g ( $8.35 \times 10^{-2}$  mol) of P1 dissolved in 100 mL of dry pyridine was added and left at room temperature for 48 hours. After this period, 10 g of KOH dissolved in 250 mL of water were added and the mixture was heated up for 80°C. After cooling, the product was extracted with sulfuric ether, washed with diluted HCl, diluted  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution, water and dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . After evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure 12.76 g (yield = 92%) of an orange powder was obtained and further purified in an

alumina column using benzene as eluent. The product (P2) showed a single spot in thin layer chromatography and with following characteristics: M.P. = 62-63°C,  $M^+ = 165$ ; Elementary analysis: found: C, 65.36% , H, 7.50% e N, 17.10 % ; calculated : C, 65.43% , H, 7.93% e N, 16.96% ).

5 **Step # 2 : Synthesis of 2,2,5,5-tetramethylpyrrolidine-1-oxyl-3-amine-4-cyano (P3).**

In a 3 L round bottom flask, 600 mL of liquid ammonia, 9 g ( $5.44 \times 10^{-2}$  mol) of P2 and 120 mL of water were added. The flask was tightly closed to maintain the mixture under pressure and left at room temperature. After 3  
10 days, the ammonia was eliminated and the product extracted with chloroform. The crude product crystallized from ether-petroleum ether yielded 9.37 g (yield = 94%) of a yellow powder with the following characteristics:  $M^+ = 182$ ; P.F. 84-85 °C; Elementary analysis: found: C 58.98%; H, 8.37%; N, 22.21%; calculated ( $C_9H_{16}ON_3$ ): C, 59.31%; H, 8.85 % ; N, 23.06 % ).

15 **Step 3 - Synthesis of 2,2,5,5-tetramethylpyrrolidine-1-oxyl-3-amino-4-carboxylic-acid (P4) -POAC.**

8 g ( $4.38 \times 10^{-2}$  mol) of P3 and 40 g of  $Ba(OH)_2$  were suspended in 600 mL of water and added to a 3 L round bottom flask. The flask was tightly closed and heated up to 120°C for 90 minutes. After cooling, the mixture was  
20 neutralized with excess of dry ice and filtered. The aqueous solution was concentrated under reduced pressure and yielded 8 g of crude product (yield: 90%) that was crystallized from 90% ethanol. The product presented the following characteristics: M.P. = 212°C (melts with sublimation);  $M^+ = 201$  (Figure 2), single peak in HPLC, (Figure 3); elementary analysis : found : C, 53.1% ; H, 8.28 %; N, 13.95 % ; calculated ( $C_9H_{17}N_2O_3$ ): C, 53.71 % ; H, 8.52; N, 13.92 Infra-red (KBr ) :  $cm^{-1}$  : 3084, 2872, 2792, 2548 and 2132 (NH + 3); 1643  $\nu_{AS}$  (NH + 3) ; 1574 ( $\nu_{AS}$  , C=O); 1456 ( $\delta$  CH3); 1396 and

1376 (gem-dimethyl and COO<sup>-</sup>); 782 ( $\delta$  C=O). The Figure 4A shows the EPR spectrum of POAC in aqueous solution, pH 5. The calculated values for the two rotational correlation times ( $\tau_B$  and  $\tau_C$ ) were  $0.509 \times 10^{-10}$  and  $0.597 \times 10^{-10}$ , respectively.

#### 5 Preparation of Fmoc-Poac

201 mg (1 mmol) of P4 was dissolved in 1.5 mL of water in presence of 286 mg of sodium carbonate.10 H<sub>2</sub>O in which 337 mg (1mmol) of Fmoc-succinimidyl-carbonate dissolved in 1.5 mL of acetone was added drop-wise. The reaction was carried out at room temperature with stirring and the pH was maintained around 9 by addition of sodium carbonate. After 3 hours, the mixture was diluted with 25 mL of water, acidified with 1 N HCl until pH 2. The desired product was extracted with ethyl acetate, washed with small portions of water, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After filtration, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was crystallized twice with chloroform and yielded 380 mg (yield : 90%). The product was characterized by mass and infra-red spectroscopy, elementary analysis and EPR. Characteristics: M<sup>+</sup> = 423 (Figure 5); elementary analysis : found: C, 67.9 % ; H, 6.35 %; N, 6.60 ; calculated (C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>O<sub>5</sub>N<sub>2</sub>): C, 68.08% ; H, 6.28 % ; N, 6.62%; IR (KBr) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3444-3338 (broad band OH and -CONHR); ~3030 ( $\nu$ Ar CH); 3000-2700 ( $\nu$ Ar COOH); 1723 (R-O-C-ON- and COOH); 1543 ( $\delta_{NH}$  and  $\nu$ CN); 1450 ( $\delta$  CH<sub>3</sub>); 1235-1150 (gem-dimethyl group). The EPR spectra of Fmoc-POAC in dimethylformamide is represented in Figure 4B and the calculated  $\tau_B$  and  $\tau_C$  values are  $1.14 \times 10^{-10}$  s.rad<sup>-1</sup> and  $1.79 \times 10^{-10}$  s. rad<sup>-1</sup>, respectively.

#### 25 Synthesis of Poac<sup>7</sup>-angiotensin II

Angiotensin II analogue labeled with the spin probe POAC (Asp-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Poac-Phe) was synthesized in 0.15 mmol scale, by the solid phase



method already mentioned and with alteration to provide the insertion of this marker in the middle of the peptide chain. [J. Am. Chem. Soc. 115, 11042 (1993)]. Fmoc-Phe-Wang-resin [J. Am. Chem. Soc. 95, 1328 (1973)] with 0.41 mmol/g substitution degree acquired commercially was used. All  
5 couplings were carried out using 2.5 fold excess for the Fmoc-amino acids and 3 fold excess for Fmoc-POAC. The acylating reagents for coupling were diisopropylcarbodiimide (DIC) and 1-hydroxibenzotriazole in dichloromethane : dimethylformamide mixture (1:1,v/v) as solvent. The Fmoc deprotection was performed with 20% piperidine in dimethylformamide (v/v) for 20min.

10 Interestingly, this synthesis demonstrated that the pyrrolidine structure of the Poac spin label allowed much easier incorporation of the subsequent amino acid residue than the observed during the Toac<sup>7</sup>-All synthesis. In this latter case, repetitive recoupling reactions were necessary including the increase in the temperature. These procedures were not necessary in the case of Poac  
15 derivative thus demonstrating that the Poac amine group reactivity is much higher than that of Toac.

After the completion of the synthesis, the peptide was cleaved from the resin in anhydrous HF containing 10% of the p-cresol and dimethylsulfide mixture, at 0°C for 90 min. The crude peptide obtained after extraction and  
20 lyophilization (125 mg) was dissolved in 70 mL of water and the pH was raised to 10 with ammonium hydroxide and stirred for 2 h, to revert the nitroxide protonation that occurs during the HF treatment. After lyophilization, the peptide was purified by preparative HPLC (high performance liquid chromatography) using a reverse phase C<sub>18</sub> (25 x 250 mm) and ammonium  
25 acetate 0.02 M, pH 5 and acetonitrile 60% in water, as solvents A and B, respectively. The linear gradient applied was from 20-65% of B in 135 min.

The homogeneity of the peptide was confirmed through analytical HPLC (Figure 6), mass spectrometry,  $M^+ = 1132.55$  (Figure 7) and the amino acids analysis showed the expected composition : Asp 0.95 (1.00); Val 0.96 (1.00); Ile 1.20 (1.00); Tyr 1.02 (1.00); Phe 1.00 (1.00); His 0.96 (1.00); Arg 1.02 (1.00). The Figure 8 displays the EPR spectra of 0.25 mM Poac<sup>7-</sup> All at pH 3, 6 and 9 aqueous solution. No significant variation on the rotational correlation time values was observed for this paramagnetic All analogue thus suggesting that its conformations is not affected by the pH of the media.

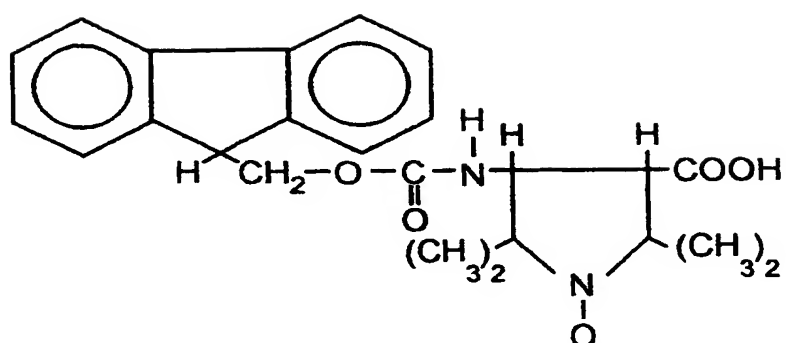
## CLAIMS

1°) **"SYNTHESIS OF A NOVEL PARAMAGNETIC AMINO ACID DERIVATIVE (EPM-5) FOR LABELING DIFFERENT MACROMOLECULES AND SYSTEMS OF CHEMICAL-BIOLOGICAL INTEREST"**, characterized by synthesizing the novel paramagnetic  $\beta$ -amino acid-type derivative 2,2,5,5-tetramethylpyrrolidine-N-oxy-(9-fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl)-3-amine-4-carboxylic acid that was synthesized from the following sequential intermediates : (a) 2,2,5,5-tetramethylpyrroline-1-oxyl-3-cyano; (b) 2,2,5,5-tetramethylpyrrolidine-N-oxyl-3-amino-4-cyano and (c) 2,2,5,5-tetramethylpyrrolidine-3-amino-4-carboxylic acid (POAC), yielding the derivative above mentioned denominated Fmoc-POAC or EPM-5.

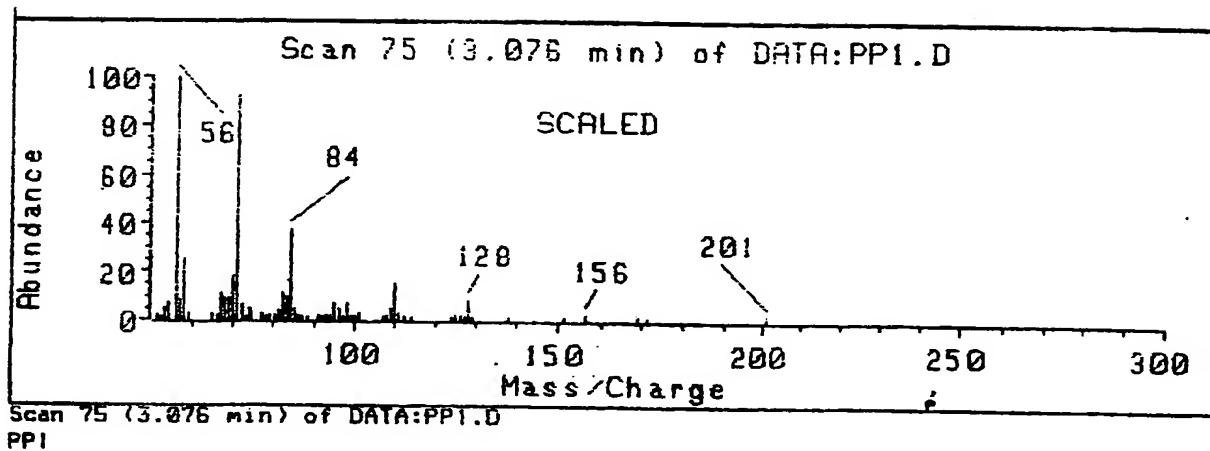
2°) **"SYNTHESIS OF A NOVEL PARAMAGNETIC AMINO ACID DERIVATIVE (EPM-5) FOR LABELING DIFFERENT MACROMOLECULES AND SYSTEMS OF CHEMICAL-BIOLOGICAL INTEREST"**, according to the precedent claim 1 and characterized by the fact that Fmoc-POAC can be coupled to macromolecules or systems through its carboxyl function, irrespective of its use or not in further electron spin resonance method.

3°) **"SYNTHESIS OF A NOVEL PARAMAGNETIC AMINO ACID DERIVATIVE (EPM-5) FOR LABELING DIFFERENT MACROMOLECULES AND SYSTEMS OF CHEMICAL-BIOLOGICAL INTEREST"**, according to the previous claims and after its incorporation to a molecule or a structure, the Fmoc protecting group of the POAC compound can be removed for further coupling of different chemical derivatives at its free amine function.



**Figure 1****Structure of Fmoc-Poac.**

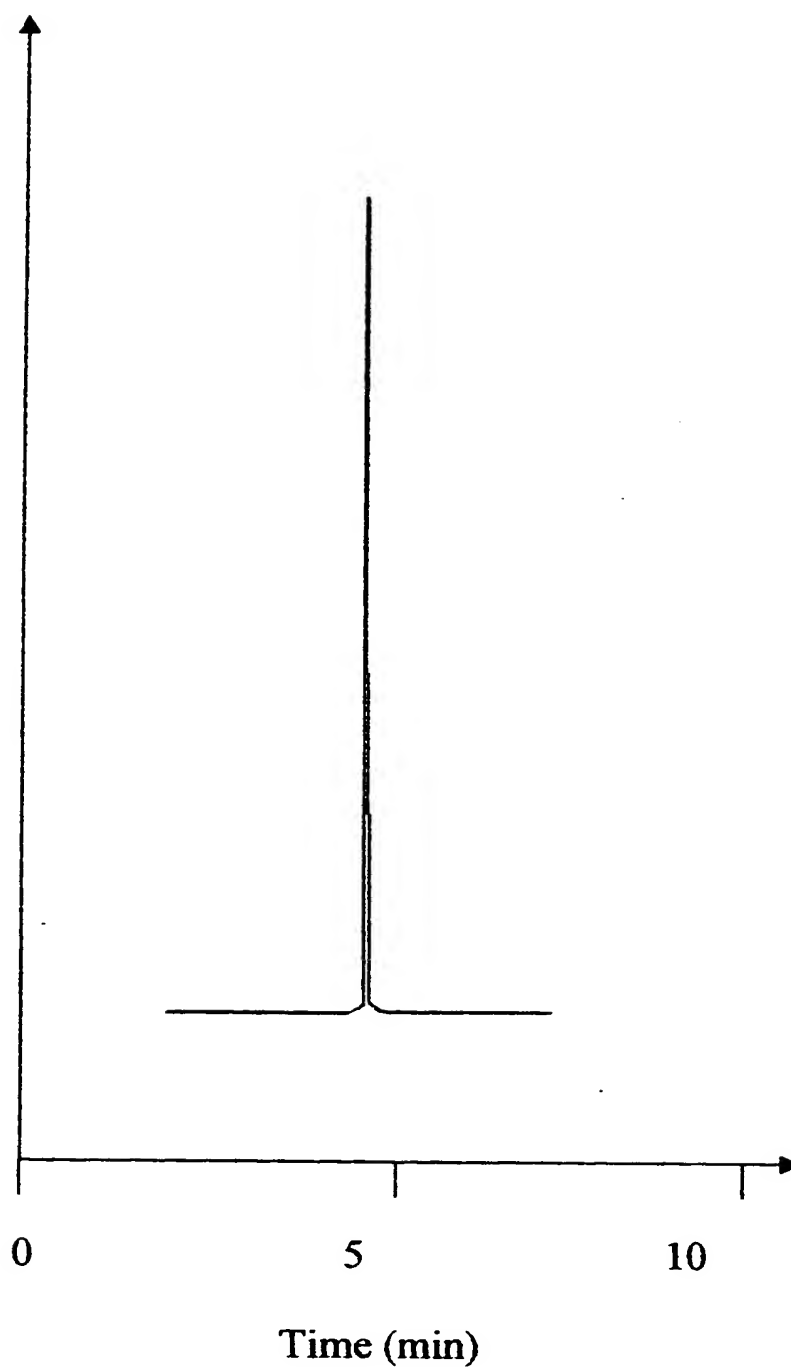


**Figure 2**

Mass spectrum of POAC.

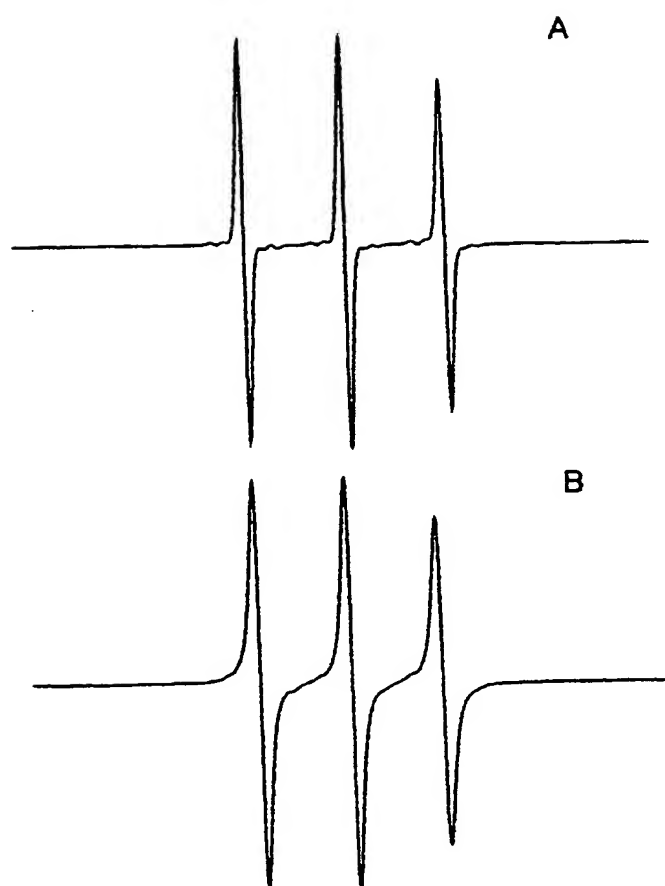
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**Figure 3**

HPLC profile of 2,2,5,5-tetramethylpyrrolidine-1-oxil-3-amine-4-carboxylic acid (Poac). Experimental conditions: C<sub>8</sub> (4,6 x 150 mm) column. Eluent A: NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> 0,1M/water and, B: acetonitrile 90%/water ; 1-21% of B in 10 min.



**Figure 4**

RPE spectra of  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M (A) Poac in water, pH 5; (B) Fmoc-Poac in dimethylformamide.



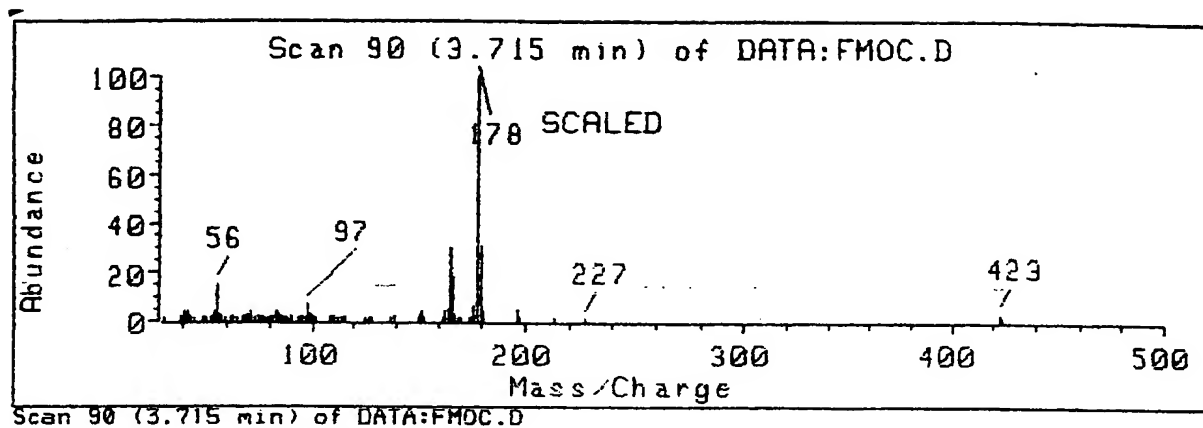
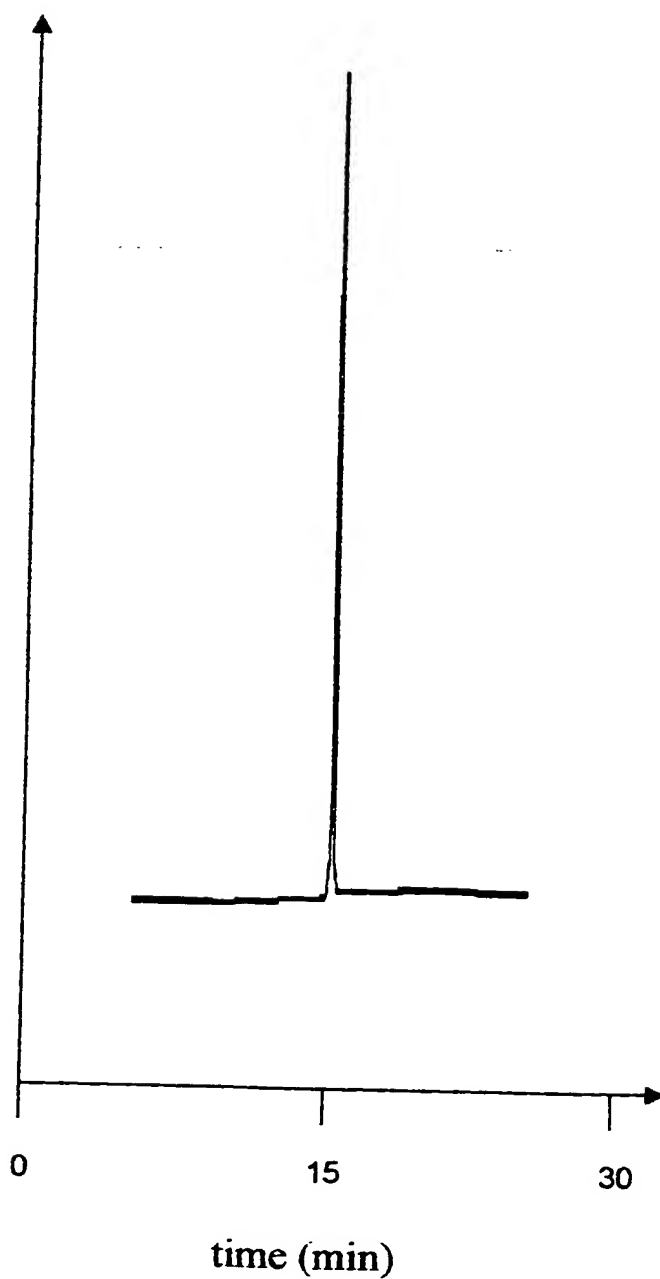


Figure 5: Mass spectrum of Fmoc-POAC.

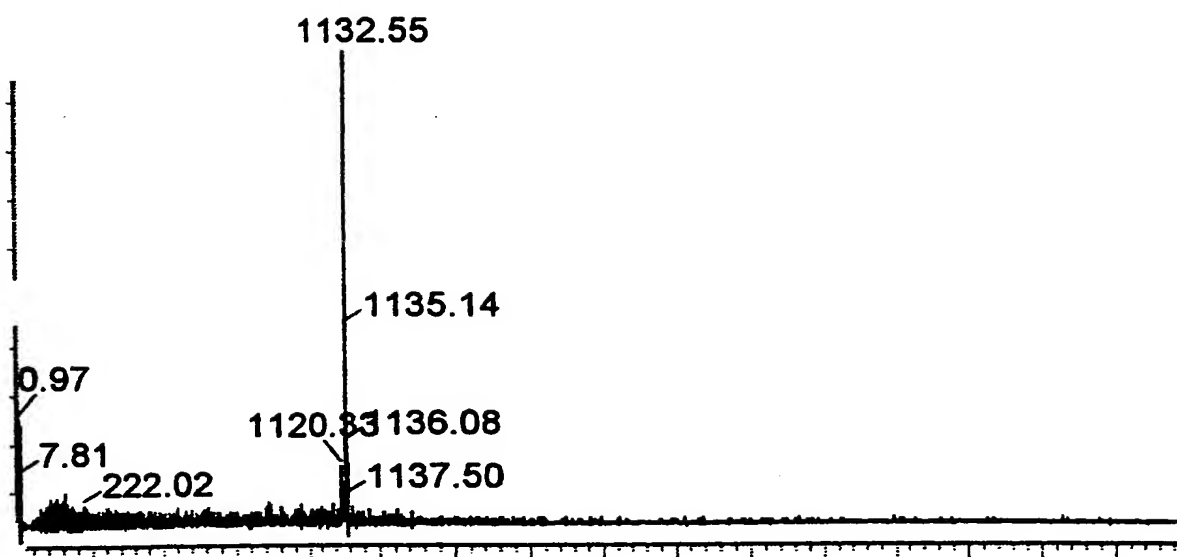
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**Figure 6**

HPLC profile of Poac<sup>7</sup> - AII. Column RF C<sub>18</sub> (4,6 x 150 mm). Eluent A: 0,1% aqueous TFA and eluent B, 0,1% TFA in 60% aqueous acetonitrile. Flow rate, 1.5mL/min. Elution was performed by a linear gradient of 5% to 95% eluent B.

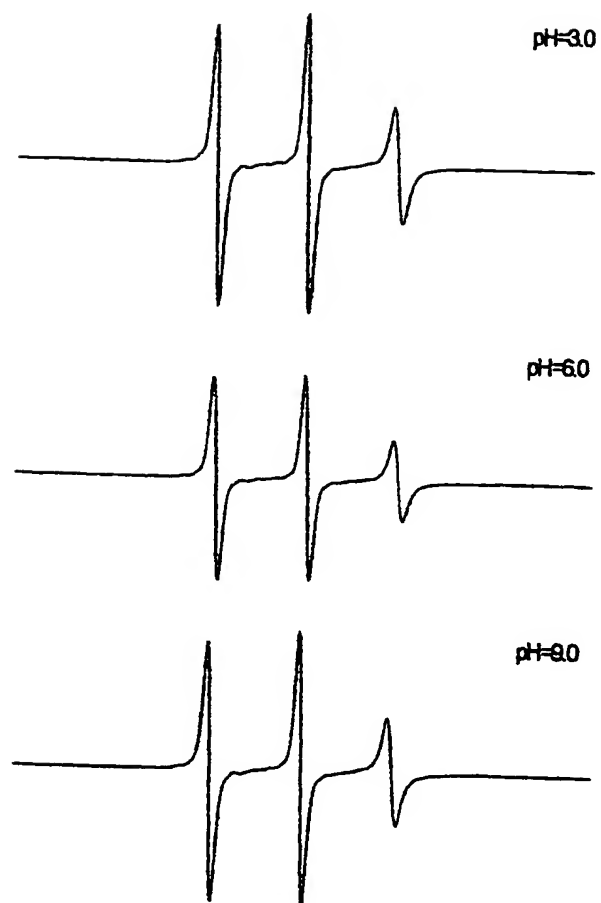
21 DEC 2001



**Figure 7**

Mass spectrum of Poac<sup>7</sup>-Angiotensin II.

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**Figure 8**

RPE spectra of  $2.5 \times 10^{-4}$  M Poac<sup>7</sup>-All in pH 3, 6 and 9.



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/BR00/00068

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C07D 207/46, 295/24  
US CL : 548/528, 531

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
U.S. : 548/528, 531

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
CAS ONLINE, CAPLUS, BEILSTEIN, EAST, WEST  
search terms: tetramethylpyrrolidin?, amin?, carboxylic(L)acid, spin(L)label(L)reagent?, fluoren?

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3,966,764 A (GOLDSTEIN et al) 29 June 1976, see entire document.	1-3

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

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